

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 03728 090818Z

10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/127 W

----- 099602

R 090523Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5929

USMISSION GENEVA UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3728

SYDNEY ALSO PASS TRADE CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, AS

SUBJ: MTN: AUSTRALIAN TARIFFS

REF: CANBERRA 3727

1. TEXT OF REFERENCE TO IAC MENTIONED REFTEL FOLLOWS:

QTE I, LIONEL FROST BOWEN, SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE,  
HEREBY -

QTE 1. REFER THE FOLLOWING MATTERS TO THE INDUSTRIES  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23 OF  
THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION ACT 1973, FOR INQUIRY  
AND REPORT:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 03728 090818Z

QTE HAVING REGARD TO:

QTE (A) THE DECISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED BY THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF SEPTEMBER , 1973 AT TOKYO;

QTE (B) THE FACT THAT THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MAY INVOLVE THE GRANTING BY AUSTRALIA OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS;

QTE (C) THE FACT THAT THE RESULTING GENERAL TARIFF RATES MAY BE BOUND AGAINST FUTURE INCREASE; AND

QTE (D) THE FACT THAT REDUCTIONS IN TARIFFS COULD BE PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF TIME

QTE (I) FOR GOODS OF A KIND SPECIFIED IN THE CUSTOMS TARIFF 1966-1974, AS ALTERED OR PROPOSED TO BE ALTERED, TO WHICH A BRITISH PREFERENTIAL MARGIN IS ACCORDED IN THAT TARIFF, CAN THAT MARGIN BE:

QTE (A) REDUCED AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT, OR

QTE (B) ELIMINATED, BY ESTABLISHING A REDUCED GENERAL TARIFF RATE FOR GOODS OF THAT KIND, WITHOUT GENERALLY ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT OR STRUCTURAL EFFECTS?

QTE (II) CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES SET OUT IN SECTION 22 OF THE IAC ACT, 1973, WHAT SCOPE IS THERE FOR ELIMINATION OF THOSE GENERAL TARIFF RATES WHICH DO NOT EXCEED 10 PCT. AD VALOREM (OR THE EQUIVALENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC RATE TARIFFS), INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF ANY PRIMA DUTY APPLICABLE?

QTE (III) TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FORM OF GENERAL APPROACH TO TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS AS MAY BE AGREED BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE MTNS, WHAT SCOPE IS THERE FOR AUSTRALIA TO ACCORD FURTHER GENERAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF ANY PRIMA DUTY APPLICABLE, CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES SET OUT IN SECTION 22 OF THE IAC ACT, 1973?

QTE (IV) OVER WHAT TIME SPAN COULD SUCH REDUCTIONS BE PHASED, IN ORDER TO MINIMISE, SO FAR AS PRACTICABLE, ANY ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT OR STRUCTURAL EFFECTS? END QTE

2. TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT BY BOWEN, THEN SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, AND CREAN, MIN. OVERSEAS TRADE, FOLLOWS:

QTE THE SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, MR. LIONEL BOWEN, AND THE MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, MR. FRANK CREAN, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 03728 090818Z

ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A REFERENCE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REQUESTING ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BEING HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GATT.

QTE THE MINISTERS SAID THAT THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COVERED AGRICULTURAL, MINING AND INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND ALSO TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

TO TRADE HAD NOW ENTERED A SUBSTANTIVE PHASE. THIS FOLLOWED THE PASSAGE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE ACT IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

QTE IN SUPPORTING THE TOKYO DECLARATION WHICH HAD INAUGURATED THE NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1973 THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL ADVANTAGE, MUTUAL COMMITMENT AND OVERALL RECIPROCITY AND ON THE BASIS THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD JOINTLY ENDEAVOUR TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL.

QTE THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD FOCUS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF MEASURES WHICH IMPEDE OR DISTORT INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND AS A PART OF THIS OTHER COUNTRIES WERE NOW ASSESSING THE SCOPE FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THAT PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING TARIFFS. IT WAS NECESSARY, THE MINISTER SAID, FOR AUSTRALIA TO UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR EXAMINATION AND IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT THE ADVICE OF THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION IN RELATION TO TARIFF MATTERS SHOULD BE SOUGHT TO FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE POTENTIAL SCOPE FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

QTE THE REPORT WHICH THE IAC PREPARED WOULD, THE MINISTER SAID, REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO ENABLE AUSTRALIA TO MAXIMISE THE SCOPE FOR RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

QTE IN MAKING ITS ASSESSMENT THE IAC IS TO HAVE REGARD TO ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY AND THE LIKELY NEED FOR THE PHASING IN OF POTENTIAL CONCESSIONS OVER A SUFFICIENT PERIOD OF YEARS TO MINIMISE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON INDUSTRY.

QTE THE MINISTERS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 03728 090818Z

CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MINIMISE ANY BURDEN ON AUSTRALIAN LABOUR AND INDUSTRY IN PROVIDING INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATING IN IAC ENQUIRIES AND HAD INSTRUCTED THE IAC TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO IT IN RECENT ENQUIRIES. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT ALL RELEVANT FACTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE COMMISSIONS'S NOTICE.

QTE THE QUESTIONS COVERED IN THE REFERENCE TO THE IAC ARE, THE MINISTER SAID, DESIGNED TO SEEK ADVICE ON THE SCOPE FOR POSSIBLE TARIFF CONCESSIONS WHICH AUSTRALIA MIGHT OFFER IN EXCHANGE FOR RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS OF BENEFIT TO AUSTRALIA WHICH AT THE SAME TIME WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH AUSTRALIA'S LONG TERM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

QTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPORTS BEING SOUGHT FROM THE

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS  
TO ESTABLISH NEW PROCEDURES FOR LIAISON WITH LABOUR,  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE MULTILATERAL  
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO ENSURE THAT MAXIMUM COORDINATION  
WAS MAINTAINED DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.  
A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS MATTER WILL BE MADE  
BY MR. CREAN SHORTLY. END QTE.  
GREEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CANBER03728  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750200-0398  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750666/aaaachwi.tel  
**Line Count:** 177  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CANBERRA 3727  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MTN: AUSTRALIAN TARIFFS  
**TAGS:** ETRD, AS, GATT, IAC  
**To:** MTN GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006